

Amendments to the Specification:

To the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] The breakdown of the amount of bandwidth 3002 reserved to each priority level 3001 supported by the network corresponds largely to the broadcasted information described in the earlier patent. Breakdowns 3003 and 3011 through 3014, however, correspond to additional broadcasted information that allows a source node to consider both over-subscription ~~an LCN~~ and LCN exhaustion. Service category describes the Quality of Service (QoS) of a connection. Typically, in order to support robust QoS flavors to users of the network, different types of service categories can be defined. The service category type for a connection is typically specified in the connection's corresponding SETUP message.

Please replace paragraph [0096] with the following amended paragraph:

[0096] As routing and signaling protocols are often implemented with software, it is to be understood that embodiments of this invention may be used as or to support a software program executed upon some form of processing core (such as the CPU of a computer) or otherwise implemented or realized upon or within a machine readable medium. A machine readable medium includes any mechanism for storing or transmitting information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a computer). For example, a machine readable medium includes read only memory (ROM); random access memory (RAM); magnetic disk storage media; optical storage media; flash memory devices; ~~electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signals~~ (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.); etc.

Please replace paragraph [0100] with the following amended paragraph:

[0100] The switching/routing layer 1203 is responsible for effectively deciding which networking line is an appropriate networking line upon which a particular traffic unit should be transmitted upon. The switching/routing layer 1203 often performs this activity based upon header information or other control information (such as SS7 based TDM connection information) associated with each traffic unit. Connection establishment and tear-down procedures (as well as network topology broadcasts or other networking overhead information) can often be viewed as being integrated into (or coupled to so as to ~~communicate~~ communicate with) the switching/routing layer 1203.